

Getting back to business



Above: Josh Jordan, a member of UNO's student government takes a pie in the face Wednesday afternoon in the Pep Bowl. This was part of Student Government Week which also featured an inflatable obstacle course and free hamburgers and chips to students walking between classes.

Right: Ramanda Fuelberth, an intermedia arts major, works on her homework on the third floor of the Weber Fine Arts Building.



Above: Three Alpha Xi Delta members (left to right) Brittany Herman, Tori Glatter and Kimberly Coleman, serve time and raise money for the Ronald McDonald House, which helps assist the families of children with medical illnesses. Last year, the sorority raised over \$1,600. Jail 'n' Bail has been held for seven straight years at UNO.



All photos by Bill Wendt

UNO Forensics team to make big splash at nationals

JILLIAN WHITNEY
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

Each member of UNO's forensics team has qualified to compete at the 2008 American Forensics Associations-National Individual Events Tournament, hosted by the University of Texas at Austin. The tournament will be held from April 3 to April 8.

"At these competitions the students give their speeches, win awards and it's a combination of a competition and academic success. What we try to do is allow students to find a way to incorporate their education into a fun extra curriculum activity that motivates and inspires them to do well," said Abbie Syrek, director of the team.

The UNO Forensics team is a nationally competitive speech team. They travel a couple weekends each month starting in September and lasting until April.

On the team there are currently 11 students, two coaches and a devoted following of volunteers that help the team practice and assist with its speeches. Syrek said the process to qualify for nationals is a hard process: They have to be the top three speakers in their events at least three times to qualify.

"Qualifying for nationals is a tough and rigorous process. These students have to do well at tournaments consistently," Syrek said.

Syrek said she was very proud of the team for all their hard work.

"It's very hard to get the whole team to qualify. It means we have a good group and they're working hard. They all mentor each other, they pull each other up, and they work to get each other there," Syrek said. "It's been a real team effort to get the whole group there."

"With two team members qualifying at

the last tournament, it was a surprise when the whole team qualified this year," said Laurie Welch, a member of the team.

"I am really excited to go to nationals. Once you get there it's just watching all your hard work pay off. You don't have to feel any pressure you just go in there and do your best and there is nothing afterwards so all you can do is give your best," Welch said.

The team was able to have its trip to nationals financed as a result of support from faculty.

"We have the best administration on campus. Dean Gail Baker the dean of the College of Communication, Fine Arts and Media and Dr. Jeremy Lipschultz the director of the School of Communications are so student centered. When I went to them with this I knew that it would hurt their hearts to say no, and they didn't. They said, 'We'll get them there whatever we have to do,'" Syrek said.

Arts, Sciences dean campus visits conclude

JILLIAN WHITNEY
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

The fourth and final candidate for the position of dean of the College of Arts and Sciences interviewed Monday, and for her, the trip was not a long one.

Susan Maher, chair and professor of English at UNO, was the final of the four candidates to be interviewed and attended an open session with faculty, staff and students in the Milo Bail Student Center.

The three other finalists are David Boocker, chair and professor in the department of English and journalism at Western Illinois University, Macomb, Ill.; Steven Haggblom, department head and professor of psychology at Western Kentucky University, Bowling Green, Ky.; and Marshall Sundberg, professor of biology at Emporia State University, Emporia, Kan.

"Whatever the result is, I felt like I performed the best that I can, and whatever happens I'll accept it," Maher said.

Her experiences throughout the years as a professor and as chair of the English department at UNO make her feel confident to take on the role of dean, Maher said.

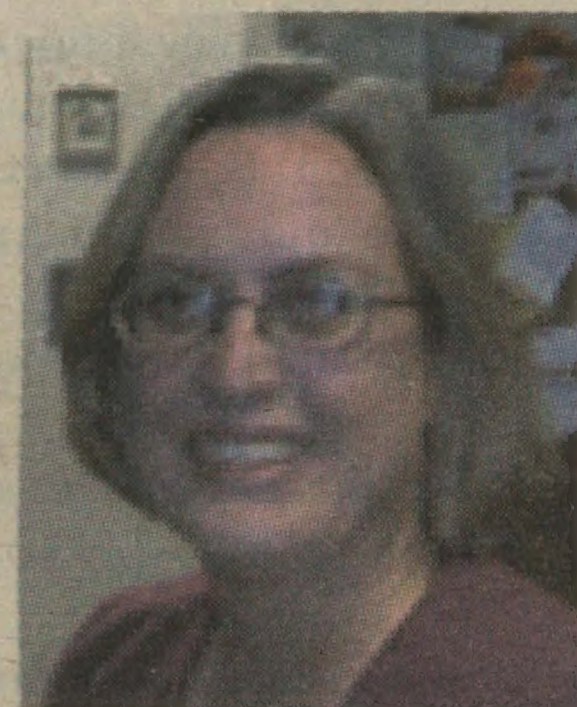
"I think I'll work on telling our story more effectively to our community so they'll understand more clearly what kind of work goes on in this college," Maher said. "We have some of the best scholars on the whole campus in our college. We have phenomenal teachers in our college, but I feel as if we aren't really known out there."

With the candidate interviews concluded, the search committee will now compile the community's feedback and present it to Sheri Noren Everts, interim vice chancellor for academic and student affairs.

"I will be collecting feedback from faculty, staff, students and other community people anyone who had a chance to meet the candidates," said B.J. Reed, dean of the College of Public Affairs and Community Service and chair of the search committee. "I will then be compiling that information and providing that to the vice chancellor for academic and student affairs and trying to organize it."

Reed said the decision would most likely be made sometime in April.

"Basically, the decision is in the hands of the vice chancellor. Hopefully we'll have a decision quickly," Reed said.



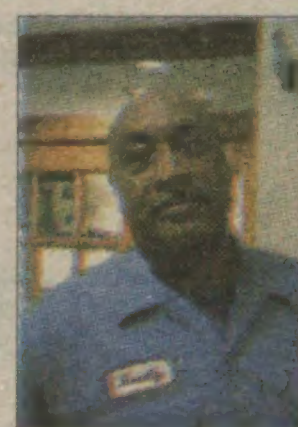
Susan Maher

In Next Issue...

April fools' issue:
Humor to make its
return to campus.

www.unogateway.com

Custodial staff profiles



Meet custodians Timothy Williams, the sociologist, and Helen Burton, the beautician, in their lives on campus.

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A 125-pound monster



The Gateway takes you inside the life of Cody Garcia, two-time NCAA Division II National Champion.

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Chat with Swizzle Tree



Our staff sat down with guitarist/vocalist Steve Krok of Swizzle Tree to discuss the band's latest happenings.

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Muse's "H.A.A.R.P."



A&L Editor Charley Reed discusses his discovery of Muse's latest live album, "H.A.A.R.P."

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Memorial scholarship deadline approaching

EUGENE KIM
STAFF WRITER

The UNO Faculty Senate is now accepting applications for the four scholarships of the Paul L. Beck Memorial, named for a member of the history department during the 1970s.

There are scholarships for one full-time graduate scholarship and one full-time undergraduate at \$650, and scholarships for one part time graduate and one part time undergraduate at \$350.

Both residents and nonresidents may apply for the scholarship. Applicants must show a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher, and students applying for the undergraduate scholarships must be UNO seniors during the award term.

A letter of recommendation by a UNO faculty or

staff member is also required.

Among other areas addressed in the application, some critical questions asked include, "How will your university program of study assist you in achieving your personal and career goals?" and "Why is a university education at UNO important to you?"

Scholarship decisions will be made by the University of Nebraska Faculty Senate Committee on Educational Resources and Services by the end of April 2008. Scholarship recipients will be notified in writing by the Faculty Senate president during May of 2008.

Any student who meets the Faculty Senate's criteria for the scholarship and wishes to apply can at the Faculty Senate office in Arts and Sciences Hall Room 105, by no later than Friday, April 4.

Council Bluffs' civil rights code proposal

NICOLE HIGGINBOTHAM
ASST. NEWS/SPORTS EDITOR

An amendment to the Council Bluffs civil rights code was considered earlier this month and was approved by the city council during its meeting March 10.

The amendment added a protection clause, making sexual orientation and gender identity discrimination pertaining to employment, housing, restaurants and other public venues against the law.

"[Council Bluffs'] civil rights laws need to be stronger than the Iowa civil rights code," said Sandy Vopalka, founding director of Equality Iowa.

Council members Scott Bell, Lynne Branigan, Matt Schultz and Matt Walsh were joined at the meeting by Tom Hanafan, Council Bluffs mayor; Richard Wade, the city attorney; and Judith Ridgeley, the city clerk.

The amendment was accepted during the first reading and the second reading with only one dissenting vote among the city council members, the third reading was waived.

Tori Christie, dean of enrollment services at Iowa Western and member of the Council Bluffs Civil Rights Commission, said, "I think it's important that people look at this as a human rights issue. In Nebraska, it might be a matter of starting with the local government in Omaha."

Given Council Bluffs' proximity to the Omaha metropolitan area, Christie said, "It's really nice to be part of something so progressive when usually Omaha is looked at as being more progressive."

The Council Bluffs civil rights code amendment will "hopefully have a positive impact" and affect similar changes in the Nebraska civil rights code, said Theresa Barron-McKeagney, director of the school of social work at UNO.

News You Can Use

COMPILED BY
SCOTT STEWART
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

'Take Back the Night' rally to raise awareness of assault, abuse

Who: Women's Resource Center and Feminist Leadership Alliance.

What: Music, guest speakers and a candle light vigil that is part of a nationwide campaign.

Where: Pep Bowl north of Eppley Administration Building and west of Arts and Sciences Hall.

When: Today, March 28, starting at 7 p.m.

Why: To raise awareness about sexual assault and abuse.

How: Sign up for the event at Facebook.com or contact Jenn Piatt at 554-2730 or jnpiatt@gmail.com.

Greeks to raise awareness, scholarship money with 5k run

Who: UNO Greek Week Committee.

What: Five kilometer Violence Awareness Run.

Where: Elmwood Park.

When: Sunday, March 30, with registration at noon and run starting at 1 p.m.

Why: To raise awareness of violence in the Omaha committee and benefit the Brittany Williams Scholarship Fund.

How: Pre-register at raiseawarenessomaha.org to receive a guaranteed t-shirt. Participants will also receive food from Colton's Wood fired Grill. Costs are \$15 per person with children under 10 participating for free.

Festival honors civil rights leader festival

Who: Department of Black Studies.

What: Annual Malcolm X Festival focusing on this year's theme: "The Ballot or the Bullet: Politics and Malcolm X."

Where: Milo Bail Student Center.

When: April 2 and April 3.

Why: To continue to build on the teachings and issues brought to the fore of society by Malcolm X.

How: For more information about the festival, call 554-2412. All events are free and open to the public. A complete schedule follows:

Wednesday, April 2

Welcome by College of Arts and Sciences Dean Shelton Hendricks

10 a.m. - "The Political Economy of Malcolm X," by William Sales.

11 a.m. - "Voting Issues for the Black Community," by Loree Bykerk.

1 p.m. - "North Omaha Political Activism and Voter Registration Efforts in the 1970s and 1980s," by Vickey Parks followed by "The Political Role of the Black Church," by L.C. Menyweather-Woods.

5:30 p.m. - "Chisholm '73: Unbrought & Unbossed," at Love's Jazz & Art Center located at 2510 N. 24th St. in downtown Omaha.

Thursday, April 3

Welcome by Chancellor John Christensen.

8:30 a.m. - "Rediscovering Malcolm X: A Life of Reinvention," by Manning Marable.

10 a.m. - "Midwestern Roots of the Civil Rights

Movement," by Dave Peavler.

1 p.m. - "How Ya Like Me Now? Black Political Art," by Peggy Jones.

5:30 p.m. - "The Politics of Hip Hop: What Would Malcolm Say," by UNO students, followed by "Any Metaphor Necessary: The Power of a Word Warrior," by Cathy Driane and a theatrical interpretation of "The Ballot or the Bullet," by D. Kevin Williams.

Gandhi keynote scheduled for next Friday

Who: School of Social Work's Gandhi Symposium and Award Luncheon.

What: Keynote lecture by Michael Petit, president of Every Child Matters Education Fund in Washington, D.C., on "Making Children and Youth a Political Priority in 2008."

Where: Thompson Alumni Center.

When: Friday, April 4, at 12:15 p.m.

Why: To honor individuals and organizations that exemplify Mahatma Gandhi's principles of nonviolence, selfless service and social action.

How: The cost for the symposium, including the luncheon, is \$20 for students and \$75 for non-students. The cost to attend only the luncheon is \$25. For more information, call 554-2792 or 554-2793.

Film series focuses on women's roles

Who: Chancellor's Commission on the Status of Women.

What: Screening of "Quick Brown Fox, An Alzheimer's Story," by Ann Hedreen and Rustin Thompson (2004, 62 min.), followed by a discussion and question-and-answer period at the end of the film.

Where: Eppley Administration Building Auditorium.

When: March 31, from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Why: To examine a film that addresses women's issues worldwide.

How: The screening is free and open to the public. For more information, contact Marvel Maring at 554-2992 or Becky Bohan Brown at 554-2243.

Dialogue asks 'What UNO do you attend?'

Who: Student Organizations and Leadership Programs in conjunction with the Greek Week Committee.

What: A Difficult Dialogue event entitled "What UNO Do You Attend?"

Where: Milo Bail Student Center Nebraska Room.

When: Tuesday, April 1, from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Why: To talk about the inclusively of clubs and discuss how they feel about being a student at UNO, including topics related to race, sexual orientation and religion.

How: Attendees much register by Friday, March 28, by calling Barb Treadway at 554-2711 or e-mailing btreadway@unomaha.edu.

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Features

Pamela Bouterse | Features Editor

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features@unogateway.com | March 28, 2008

Spotlight on the UNO custodial staff

The Beautician and the Sociologist

Timothy Williams

There's a sociologist in custodian's clothing among us.

You might have seen him singing and dancing while cleaning restrooms in the Arts and Sciences Hall. His name is Timothy Williams, and he might be able to teach you a thing or two about life.

Williams graduated from Bellevue College (now Bellevue University) with a degree in sociology and uses his education every day to set kids on the right path. He says helping children is the most important job he has.

Williams has worked with children at the Nebraska Psychiatric Institute and coached children at the Boys & Girls Club of Omaha. He mentored kids while he was still in college, when he volunteered at Girls Inc.

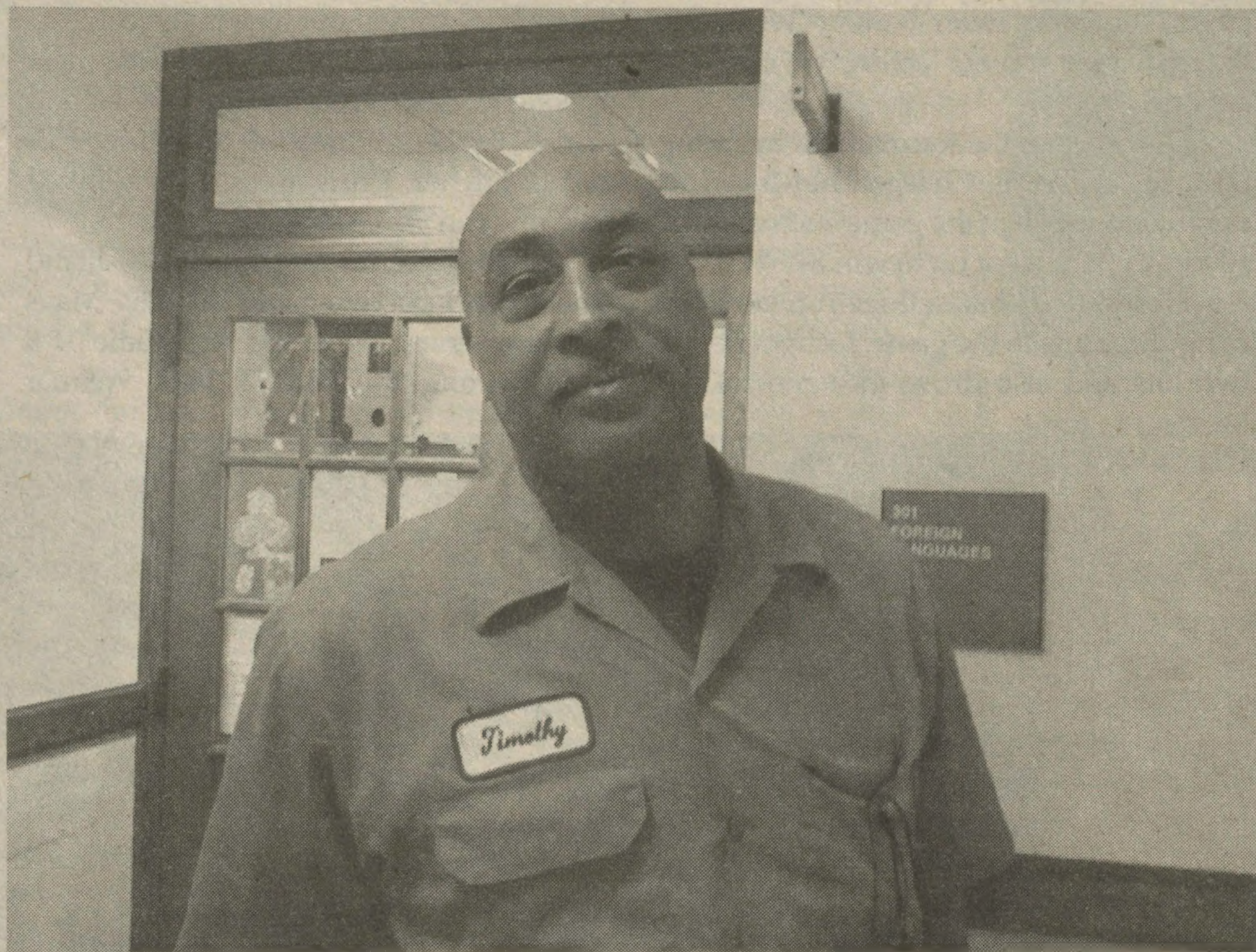
Williams is also a dedicated member of Great Dads of North Omaha, an organization to help fathers raise their children and become role models.

Williams' father taught him to sustain a foremost work ethic. "Everything's based on your work ethic," he said. "No matter what you do... be good at what you do."

Williams has two sons that share his philosophy. His 16-year-old is in parochial school learning to be a doctor while his 14-year-old is in public school learning to be an engineer.

Williams said he is in his current job because it allows him to spend more time with his boys and helps them achieve their career goals. Before arriving at UNO, Williams cooked at a restaurant and traveled the globe as professional basketball star.

At 53, Williams is still practicing his work ethic and said he will never retire, because "the day you quit working is the day you quit living."



Timothy Williams, a custodian in Arts and Sciences Hall, has a degree in sociology.

photo by Sean Darrell

STORY BY
SEAN DARRELL
CONTRIBUTOR

Helen Burton

She may spend all of her workdays sanitizing businesses across the city, but the office buildings and UNO halls are far from the environment Helen Burton enjoys.

Burton and her family would rather spend time camping in the great outdoors. The four-year beauty school alumnus takes her two children and four grandchildren camping as often as they can.

At age 13, when most junior high kids are dependent on mom and dad for a few dollars of allowance, Burton was already working her first job. She has kept herself hard at work ever since.

When she is not doing custodial work for UNO and several other businesses, Burton uses her beauty school knowledge to beautify clients. She said she might have kept a full-time beautician career if the hours were as great as her custodial hours.

An interesting fact about Burton: Before she came to UNO, she designed and created drapes for a drapery

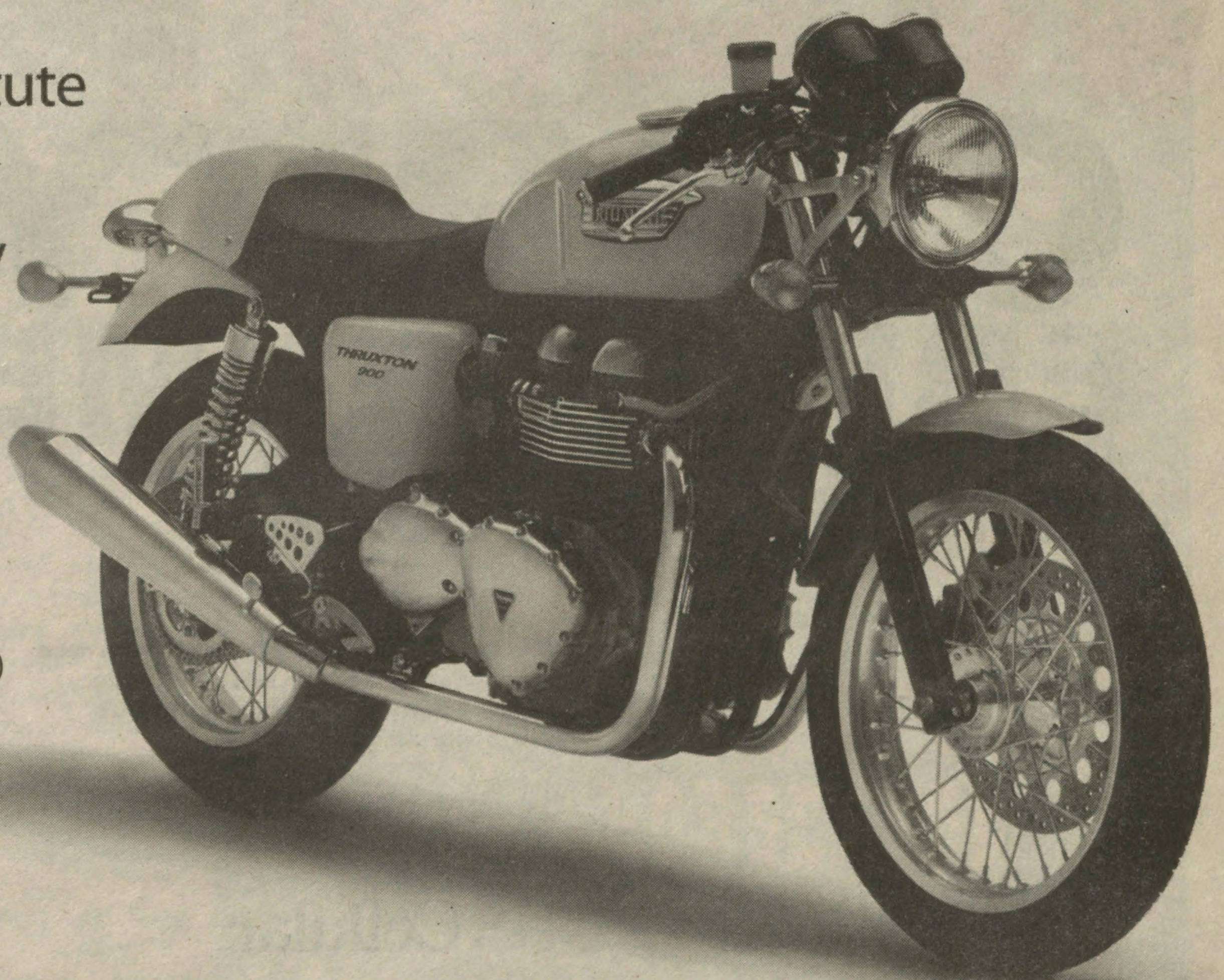
company for four years.

Burton's husband Mike is also a university employee. Mike is a supervisor in the UNO mail room and was one of the reasons for Burton applying for a job with UNO. Burton has worked for the university for the last five years.

The Shenandoah, Iowa, native says that hearing students and faculty tell her 'thank you' is the best part of her job. She enjoys working with the staff at UNO, because they make her feel like a part of the team.

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Baseball team goes 6-3 in Florida tournament

KEVIN CLEMENS
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

The UNO baseball team used their spring break much like Major League Baseball teams do: they headed south for nicer weather. UNO traveled to Fort Myers, Fla., to compete in the Gene Cusic Classic for the second year in a row.

The Mavs played well and finished the tournament with a record of 6-3, improving their overall record to 11-8 on the season.

"We got incredible potential on this

team, possibly the most talented team UNO has ever had, and we are just trying to figure out team roles right now," said junior shortstop Evan Porter. "We know that if we play to our ability, we can beat anyone."

UNO began the tournament by facing off against Hillsdale College. The Mavericks pounded the ball in the game and recorded 10 hits as they went on to win 8-4.

Dustin Koca had a three-run jack, one of his three hits in the game. Josh Shirk had two hits and also drove in a run for the

Mavs. Freshman Taylor Weisbeck earned his first career win as a Maverick, throwing five strong innings and allowing just three runs while striking out nine in the contest.

The Mavericks blew out their next opponent, East Stroudsburg, 13-1 behind Chris Weimer's three-hit and three-RBI game. Pitcher Chris Kessinger allowed only one run while striking out 11.

UNO then faced off with Ashland University in a two-game set. The Mavs split the series, losing the first game 11-9 and winning the second 14-5. Weimer

continued to wield a hot bat for the Mavericks as he recorded seven hits in 11 at-bats. He connected on two homeruns and drove in five in the double-header.

UNO then unloaded on its next opponent, Felican College, winning the contest 18-8. Lead-off hitter Bryan Frew went off in this game, connecting on five of his six at-bats, belting two homeruns, recording six RBIs and crossing home plate four times. Porter had three RBIs on two hits, including a homerun.

On Monday, March 17, UNO faced perhaps its toughest competition of the week in a pair of games versus North Central Conference foe Minnesota Duluth. The Mavs lost two close games to Duluth, 6-5 and 1-0.

In the first game, Weimer once again cleared the fence. His solo shot gave him 10 on the season. Koca also had a homerun, along with two RBIs.

In the second game, both teams struggled to get the bats going, and good pitching kept the runs at a minimum. Koca allowed seven hits and one run for UNO over eight innings. Duluth's Josh Threlkeld threw a one-hit shutout through seven innings and teamed up with a good bullpen to silence UNO's hot lineup.

The Mavericks' final double-header came against Saint Michaels College, whom UNO took two easy wins from, 15-4 and 12-4. Frew and Weimer carried the Mavs through the first game offensively by notching a combined five hits on six at-bats, with six runs and eight RBIs.

In the second game, UNO first baseman Drew Schaub went three for four while knocking home six runs. Porter had three hits and three runs.

"Our team chemistry is great and everyone gets along really well," Porter said. "Our fielding and hitting is definitely our strong points right now, and our pitching is coming along."

After the spring break games, UNO Head Coach Bob Herold seemed optimistic about where his team was heading.

"We were in every game that we played in," Herold said. "We were ahead in those games, just fell a bit short. I'm happy that we won some games without practicing, and I'm just excited to see what our team can do this season once we get going and it gets nicer outside."

UNO will now engage in a pair of double-headers in Sioux City, Iowa, this weekend. The Mavs will face Augustana twice today and twice more tomorrow.



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Inside the life of Cody Garcia: What makes a 125-pound machine tick

JASON SIBSON
SPORTS EDITOR

8 a.m. – Breakfast. Eat a banana, an omelet and a small bowl of cereal. Stay between 600 and 700 calories.

10 a.m. – Class, because education is important.

11:30 a.m. – Run, lift.

12:30 p.m. – Lunch. Again, watch the calorie intake.

1:30 p.m. – Muscle rehabilitation.

3:00 p.m. – An hour or longer of full-energy wrestling, sparring and exercise.

Stick to a 2,000 calorie diet and the routine.

To most, this may sound like an unrealistic life-improvement or body and mind-sculpting regiment, meant for those desperate for physical and mental change.

For Cody Garcia, it's just a Tuesday.

The UNO sophomore relentlessly stays trim in order to compete at 125 pounds, a weight class that he has dominated when healthy since 2006. He is known as one of the most dedicated athletes on campus, and he steers down the path of success with relentless drive and focus.

"Being disciplined is about having a routine and sticking to it," Cody said. "You have to realize that wrestling is a pretty demanding sport, and you have to

stay disciplined and self-motivated."

Cody finished his sophomore season with a 22-1 record. His only loss came by way of an injury default.

The 22-year-old from Hutchinson, Kan., has now claimed Division II national championships in 2006 and 2008. He was recently named the North Central Regional Tournament and NCAA Division II National Championships' Most Outstanding Wrestler for his seemingly effortless title runs in both meets.

These accomplishments, though, aren't satisfactory to Cody without the company of a team title.

"It was kind of bittersweet ... not winning the team championship kind of puts a damper on things," Cody said.

UNO finished third at this year's national tournament, held March 14 and March 15 in Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

Off the mat, Cody earned a spot on the National Wrestling Coaches Association Academic All-American team. He turned in a 3.3 GPA as an exercise science major.

"It's one of those things that go along with your discipline and time management," Cody said, modestly. "It's funny, because I don't consider myself much of a scholar."

Growing up, Mike Garcia played a huge role in Cody's plunge into the world of wrestling. Cody's father was coaching wrestling before Cody was even born,

and the camaraderie and intensity of the world Cody was immediately thrust into was something he was instantly drawn to.

"I started wrestling when I was four," Cody said. "My dad was a high school coach in Kansas, so I was always around it."

"It's an environment that pulls you in ... a real close-knit family."

Despite his knack for the mat, Cody is a natural athlete who competed in cross-country, soccer and tennis at Hutchinson High.

With Cody as one of just a handful of All-Americans on the team, UNO Wrestling has finished no worse than third at the national tournament in each of the last six seasons. They have been crowned champions three times during that span, and will bring that imposing résumé into a new conference, the Mid-America Intercollegiate Athletics Association, in November.

Now in the early stages of his off-season, Cody says he plans to spend little time recuperating after a grueling five-month, 20-meet long grind.

"I plan on starting back wrestling next week," Cody said. "I'm just going



photo by Jason Glenn

Garcia throws an opponent over his shoulder during his national championship season in 2006.

to kind of enjoy wrestling for a little bit, not having to worry about competition for awhile. Other than that, just training, keeping the team together and working for next year."

Cody and the Mavericks are approaching next season with a boatload of experience and confidence. UNO will lose just one wrestler from this season's lineup to graduation.

If Cody can avoid injury, doubling his NCAA Division II title collection seems well within his reach during his final two years of eligibility.

Assuming he watches his calories.

UNO brings home 11 wins from Florida tournament, sweeps Kearney double-header

SEAN OWENS
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

The fifth-ranked UNO Softball team returned home last week from their week-long Florida tournament, in which they played a dozen games under the sun.

The Mavericks came home with some Florida tans and an 11-1 record to show for their efforts. Led by their pitching, the Mavs gave up just 26 runs in the 12 games.

"It was a good tournament," said sophomore pitcher Melissa Negrete. "Our girls are pitching really well, and that helps our team a lot. The bats were going good, and the defense was on, so we were clicking pretty well."

The pitching rotation of Alyssa Fligg, Beth Haley and Negrete has set the tone for UNO's blazing start.

In the Florida tournament the bats came alive as well, which led to a team average of nearly six runs per game.

In the final game of the tournament, red-shirt freshman outfielder Lindsey Slocum knocked out a walk-off homerun to send the Mavericks home with a 6-5 victory. The only loss UNO dealt with came to Wisconsin-Parkside in the eighth game by a score of 4-1.

"They're pretty good, but we probably should have beaten them," Negrete said. "We didn't play our best game that day. It's going to happen sometimes."

The team, which held opponents to 1.6 runs per game in the tournament, allowed just four in their only loss. This speaks volumes of the intensity at which the pitching staff is showing in this final season in the North Central Conference.

After returning from their Florida trip, the Mavericks inched their way closer to conference play when they faced in-state rival UNK at Claussen-Westgate

field last Tuesday afternoon. Though the Lopers are a non-conference foe, the Mavs know the importance of holding their ground against in-state opponents.

"[UNK is] a decent ball club and I

early for the Mavs, which sent the lowly Lopers into a tail spin that they would not recover from.

To go with the 17 runs produced by the Maverick offense in the two-

game sweep, the UNO pitching staff once again remained in complete control. Haley showed her stuff Tuesday, as the

See **SOFTBALL**: Page 8



photo by Michelle Bishop

Left fielder Alli Hukill leaps to make the final out during UNO's 6-0 win over the Lopers on Tuesday.

know they always come to play," Haley said. "It is definitely a fun game though, being that we are both in state."

Fun was an easy word for the Mavericks to use following a double-header sweep of the rival Lopers. UNO discarded UNK 11-3 and 6-0 in the two games.

The Mavs brought with them the intensity that they had put forth in Florida just one week prior, and displayed it this time in front of their home crowd. In the double-header sweep, the team once again put up some staggering numbers to move their overall record to 18-3 on the season.

"They weren't a bad team, but we played really good," said freshman infielder Ashley Lynch.


Lynch, among others, played very well en route to victory on Tuesday. The young freshman hit a three-run homer in the first game to help pave the way for the 11-3 rout. Senior infielder Leslie Svoboda's second inning grand-slam in game one opened the flood gates

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Swizzle Tree breaks silence about future, new album

ANDREA BARBE
ASST. FEATURES / A&L EDITOR

A popular Midwest rock band returned to the metro last weekend after a long hiatus. Local favorites by way of the suburbs of Chicago, Swizzle Tree performed at the Papio Bowl in Lincoln on March 22 as one of the first stops on the group's acoustic tour.

Guitarist/vocalist Steve Krok sat down with the *Gateway* to talk about their current tour, changing band mates and recording their new album due out later this year.

How did all the members of Swizzle Tree meet?

It started pretty much with just me and Saarang, and then we stole our other guitarist from another band. Me, Saarang and Todish are all original members. Jiggles is pretty much original. He went from roady to bass player. Jiggles is actually our second bass player, but he was always a really close friend and he was always around our band.

[We all worked in a] retirement, old folks home kind of thing, but we always used to joke around and call it the homeless shelter. We just figured it was basically just a high-priced homeless shelter. Well, Saarang started humming the bass line to a Green Day song, and I thought that was kind of cool that he knew that song. We got to talking, and I said I wanted to start a band, and he knew a lot of the local bands. We wanted to get involved, and it just seemed like a good idea.

The thing with our band is that we've always kept the same band name. We never really wanted to change it, so we've gone through few line-up changes, but it's pretty much always been me and Saarang writing the music. We figured if the music was ours and we were going to sound like Swizzle Tree, we might as well keep calling it Swizzle Tree.

How did the name Swizzle Tree originate?

The name came from the drummer and bass player, both of which are no longer in the band. We needed a name for a talent show back in high school. They all thought of that name and we all liked it. That's the main reason why we kept the name. We've always liked it.

What about winding down after a show?

We like to go to the bar and hang out with people who came to the show. We definitely don't shy away from people who want to party.

Any crazy stories?

One time I got really wasted and everyone sharpened



photo by Michelle Bishop

Swizzle Tree's Steve Krok crowd surfs during a previous show in Omaha.

me because it was my birthday. My birthday is [Sept. 11], so they kept writing "Happy Birthday," "9/11" and all this stuff on me. So I proceeded to get really pissed off, and in the heat of the moment ... I went outside and keyed our own van. That didn't really go over too well with the guys. I mean, they thought it was funny because it was our first van, so it wasn't too nice. It was getting old, and nobody got too mad, but I definitely keyed the whole side of our van from front to back. That was probably in 2004. We finally got to upgrade to a 15-seater, so that's what we're traveling with these days.

What's the most embarrassing thing that's happened while on a road trip?

That was when me and Jiggles got into it, I think, because of some chick. He thought I was invading his territory that he was claiming, if you will. So we ended up getting into a fist fight.

Some might think it's crazy to hear that we have moments like that, but I think we've grown out of that stage. I think when you're younger, things get intense really quick. So we were in Jacksonville, Fla., and Jiggles ends up clocking me in the head while he was driving. Then our merch guy had to jump out of his seat and use his hands [to] hit the breaks to literally stop the van. It was pretty loud. Then Jiggles jumped in back and attacked me while we were driving down a side street going 30 mph.

So after that, I was pissed off and then he was passed out, so I wanted to play a trick on him. I took his brand new shoe, and I tied it to our trailer, thinking that when we showed up, it'd just be a little scuffed up, and he'd be confused as to why his new shoe looks like an old shoe.

Well, tying it to the trailer made it basically turn into a pile of rubber and shoe material. It just looked like an unrecognizable mess, so I had to throw it away and then had to burn the leftover shoe strings off the trailer because they were on there so tight. He always wondered what happened to his shoe.

Finally, about four years later, I let him know what

happened. I think in the back of his head, he always knew, but it was just comforting [for him] to hear the full story. He, more-or-less, was like, "I knew it, I knew it, I knew it! I knew it was you guys and that there was some stupid-ass story behind it that somebody wasn't telling me."

Who's the most exciting band you've ever played with?

[Without hesitation] 311. They are one of our influences that when we came up with the idea to start a band, we always idolized what they were doing. They didn't care what mainstream sounded like and they just kind of do their own thing. That's kind of what we're hoping to do.

Swizzle Tree has a big following here in Omaha. What keeps you guys coming back?

It's one of our big places to play now. As long as people keep coming to shows, we'll keep playing them. Definitely radio airtime changes it because we wish "Marc's Car" would have been a national hit, but I guess it just ended up being a privatized thing for Omaha.

This time around, you guys are only touring as an acoustic set. What prompted the thought of touring acoustically versus with the full band?

Our ex-drummer, actually, left the band for really weird reasons, so we have a new drummer that is learning our set. People have been asking, and we don't really talk about it, but he actually gave up playing with us and being our drummer to be in ballet. That surprised us. It was something he had been doing. He had been traveling with a ballet company. I don't know. I don't know what they offered him or who the people were, but he said this is something he always wanted to do, and that it was a great opportunity. So he was just like, "I'm out of here." We had no idea.

So then you recently got a new drummer?

Yeah, we're working with this new guy we met in Chicago. Don't ask me about him, because I'm still getting to know him. I don't know nothing.

Are you guys currently working on a new album?

Yeah, yeah, yeah. We've been writing pretty solidly for the past year. We don't know what the future holds. We're on a brand-new label that's just getting going. We want to put out our next record, so hopefully they have some new music so that we can put out our next album sometime this year.

What should fans expect to hear on the new album?

There is so much that we've written so far. We've gone in a few different directions because we love to write [music with an] upbeat and a medium tempo so I don't know. I don't know which ones are going to make the record right now. I'm kind of excited to see what happens. We're going to let our new drummer play and see which ones he likes and which ones we like. We'll have a meeting of the minds. You can always expect to hear the harmonies and upbeat choruses because that's what Saarang and I like to do. As soon as our new drummer has everything down, we'll be coming back touring.

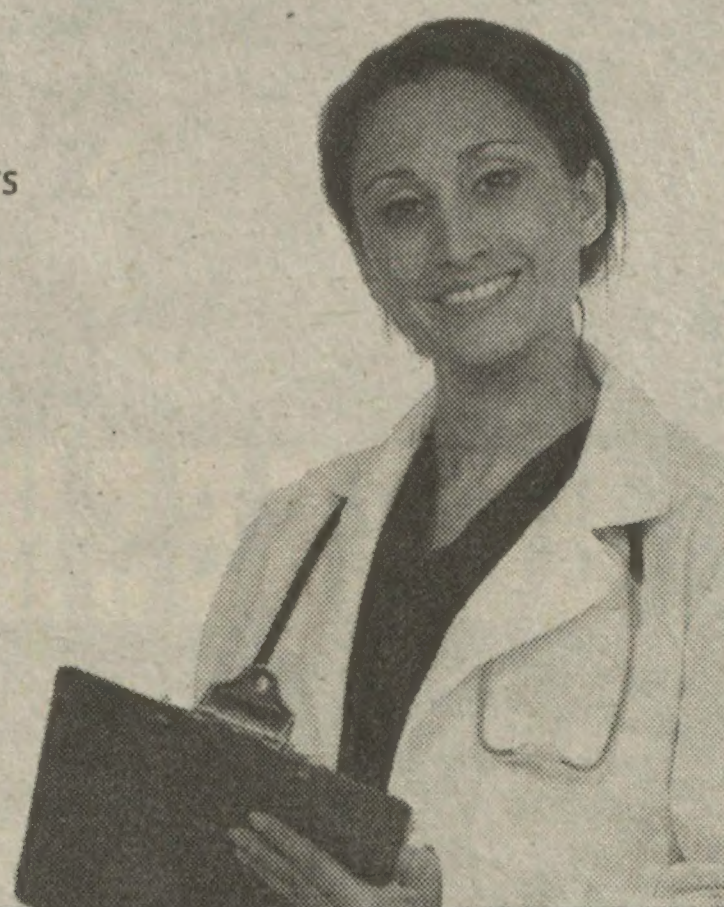
For more information on Swizzle Tree, visit myspace.com/swizzletree, and to view videos from the acoustic show on March 22, go to youtube.com/swizzlesteve.

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Wembley Stadium concert in '07 the focus of latest release from Muse

REVIEW BY
CHARLEY REED
A&L EDITOR

I'll just go ahead up front and say that I don't own a single Muse album.

However, after hearing (and watching) the band's CD/DVD package of its 2007 performance at London's Wembley Stadium, I'm giving serious thought to purchasing every single one.

The two-disc album, called "H.A.A.R.P.," is not the band's first foray into the world of publishing copies of their live performances, but it's certainly the biggest.

On June 16, 2007, Muse returned to London for their largest performance ever: 75,000 screaming fans in a sold-out Wembley Stadium. Thankfully, a recording crew came along for the event, and on April 1, "H.A.A.R.P." will be released to show what all of us located stateside missed out on.

The DVD portion of the release is the major selling point. There are many who have heard Muse on the radio or their MP3 players and think they know what the band sounds like. It's not even close to the power and emotion that front man Matthew Bellamy puts into each and every performance, and there are a lot of them.

The DVD features professionally-shot, edited and produced versions of 20 Muse songs performed at Wembley. Everything from a "Romeo & Juliet"-inspired introduction where the band takes the stage among bright fireworks and confetti before ripping into the band's most well-known song: "Knights of Cydonia" much to the joy of a raucous crowd.

The trio performs on a large stage with giant video screens, laser lights, satellites and even helicopters. After "Knights of Cydonia," Muse goes on a nearly non-stop performance of their greatest hits. The band hits everything from "Hysteria" and "Starlight to Supermassive Black Hole" and "Time is Running Out" before finishing the set with a double-encore ending with, appropriately, "Take a Bow."

CD Grade: ★ ★ ★

DVD Grade: ★ ★ ★ ★ ☆

Watching the DVD, I could only sit in awe of how elaborate and entertaining the band is. While there are other massive concerts from other massive bands that include all sorts of pomp and circumstance, it's hard to argue that Muse's Wembley Stadium performance wouldn't outshine even the biggest and brightest music stars here in the U.S. on their best day.

The only thing I can find to compare the scene to are the videos I've seen of Daft Punk's performance at Coachella in 2006, which was nothing short of a 50,000-person rave. However, unlike Daft Punk, Muse is a bit more mellow and controlled in their music, bringing to mind other United Kingdom artists like Radiohead, Coldplay and Arctic Monkeys. The difference allows for the band to be the focus of attention rather than the crowd.

In addition to electro-power ballads like "Knights" and "Hysteria," the band plays slower, acoustic sets on the DVD like "Solider's Poem" and a cover of "Feeling Good," a soul-filled blues ballad made famous by Nina Simone and covered umpteen times since.

But, if you'd rather just listen to the music, that's OK, too. Unlike most live albums, the audio quality for "H.A.A.R.P." is fantastic. If it weren't for the screaming fans, you'd be hard-pressed to even tell it was a live recording.

The only downside to the CD portion of the release is that it only features 14 of the 20 tracks on the DVD. However, the ones that are left off will only be noticed by diehard Muse fans. The one regrettable omission for me is "Feeling Good," a great song that is done justice by Bellamy and Co.

The only "special feature" on this CD/DVD combo is a picture gallery from the show. I think this is kind of a letdown. Granted this is arguably the closest fans will get to a "greatest hits" album from Muse, but if you're going to the trouble of putting together a DVD, at least provide some extra goodies like band interviews, lyric sheets, music videos or something.

But all griping aside, "H.A.A.R.P." is a must-have for any diehard Muse fan and the perfect launching pad for someone who likes Muse but doesn't know much about them. At \$20, about the cost of any normal DVD on the market, the price is right for a CD/DVD package that features not only high-quality production values, but high-quality music as well.

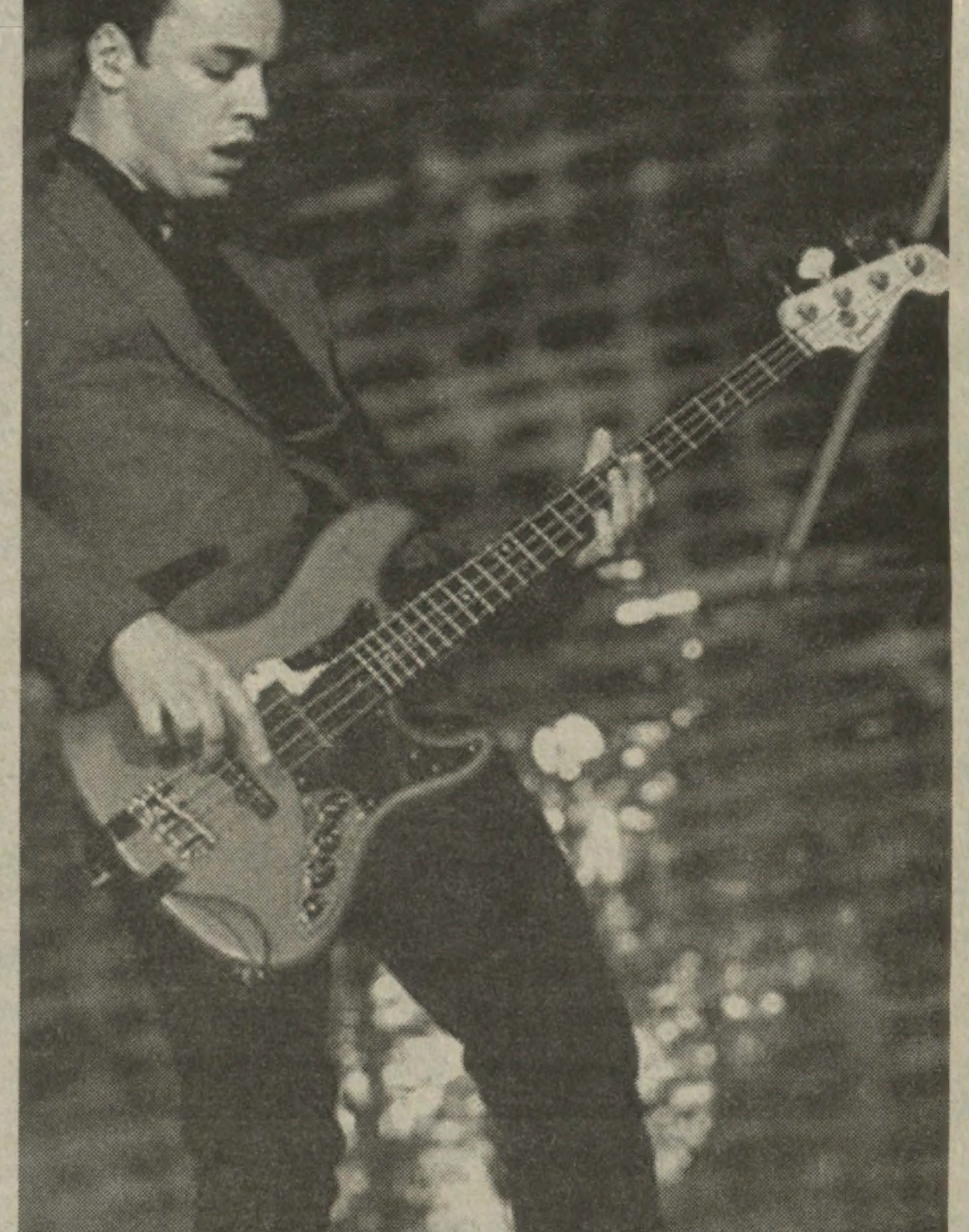
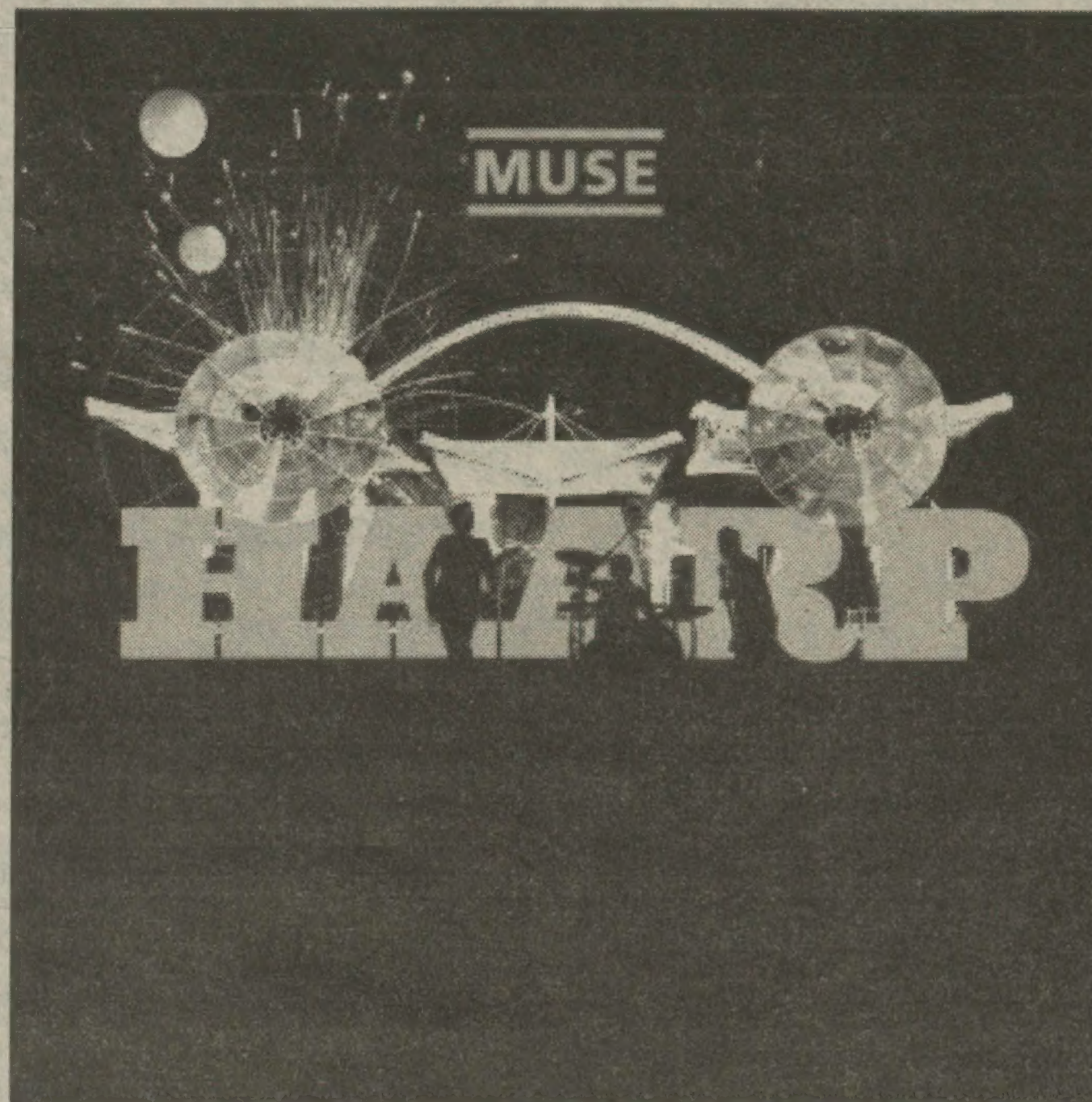


photo courtesy of muse.mu

Overall Grade:

★ ★ ★ ★

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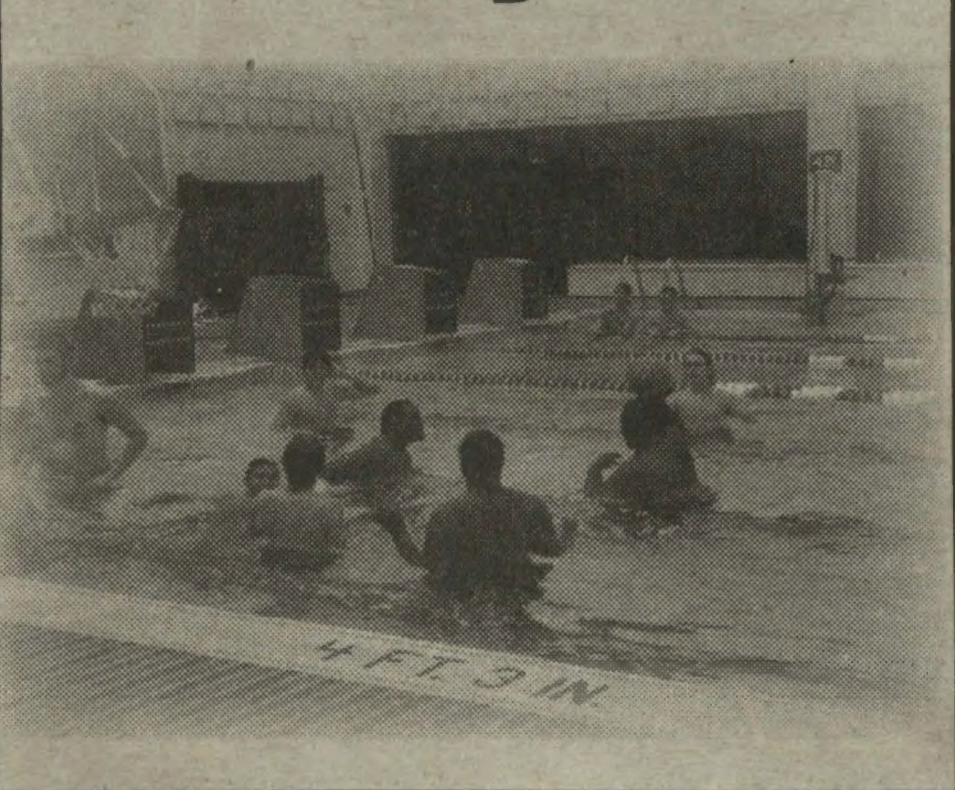
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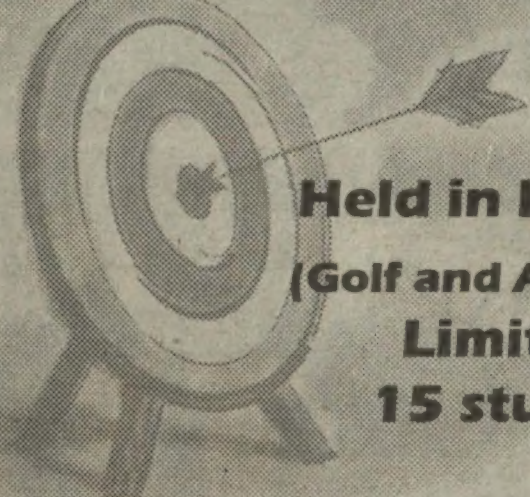
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From **SOFTBALL**: Page 5

young talent threw a complete game shutout in the second match of the double-header.

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